

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: : Confirmation No.:
Philip James IONS et al. :
Serial No.: : Group Art Unit:
Filed: April 12, 2004 : Examiner:
For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT :

McLean, Virginia
April 12, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with the filing of a new United States patent application on April 12, 2004. Please amend the application as indicated below.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins at page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 11 of this paper.